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Line 8, replace "1" with --2--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 8 and 10 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) A DNA molecule encoding a protein exhibiting alkaline liquefying α-amylase activity and possessing an amino acid sequence described in Sequence No. 2 in which one more amino acids are substituted, added, deleted, [translocated] or inserted, such that the sequence of the substituted, added, deleted, [translocated] or inserted amino acid is equivalent in activity to the amino acid sequence of Sequence No. 2 and hydrolyzes 1,4-α-glucosidic linkages in starches, amylose, amylopectin, and degradation products thereof and in amylose forms: glucose (G1), maltose (G2), maltotriose (G3), maltotetraose (G4), maltopentaose (G5) and meltohexaose (G6) and does not hydrolyze pullulan.

Please add the following new claims.

--**20**. The DNA molecule of claim 3, wherein said encoded protein has an isolectric point of 8.5 when measured by isoelectric focusing electrophoresis.

21. The DNA molecule of claim 3, wherein said encoded protein:

acts in a pH range of 5.0 to 11.0, with an optimum pH in the range of 8.0 to 9.0;

is stable in a pH range of 5.0 to 10.5 and retains at least 50% of activity after treatment at 40°C for 30 minutes;

acts in a temperature range of 20°C to 80°C, with an optimum temperature in the range of 45°C to 55°C;

is stable at temperatures of 50°C or lower when treated for 30 minutes in a glycine-salt-sodium hydroxide buffer having pH 8.5;

has a molecular weight of 50,000±5000 when measured by sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis;

has an isoelectric point of approximately 9.2 when measured by isolectric focusing electrophoresis;

is stable in the presence of K^+, Na^+, Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, Ba^{2+}, Fe^{2+}, Fe^{3+}, or Al^{3+}; and